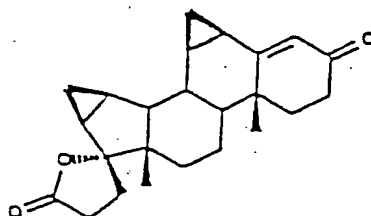


The listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

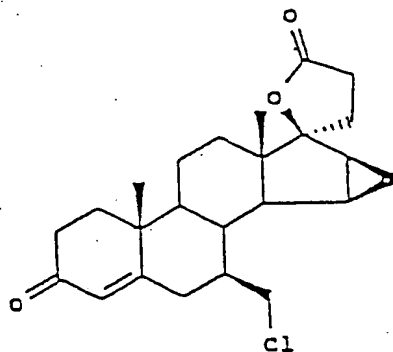
**Listing of Claims:**

1-4. (Cancelled)

5. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising 6 $\beta$ ,7 $\beta$ ; 15 $\beta$ ,16 $\beta$ -dimethylene-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -pregn-4-ene-21,17-carbolactone, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and less than 0.2% by weight of said compound of the contaminants

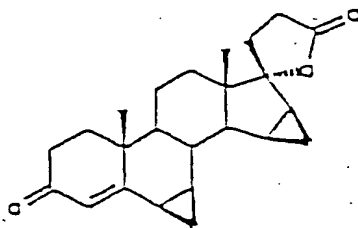


and

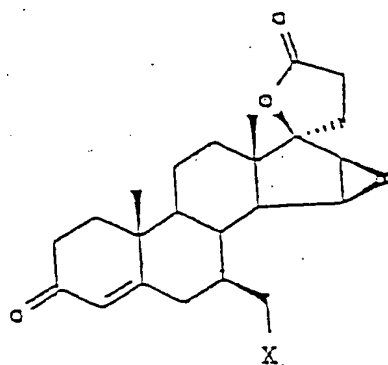


6-8. (Cancelled)

9. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising 6 $\beta$ , 7 $\beta$ ; 15 $\beta$ , 16 $\beta$ -dimethylene-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -pregn-4-ene-21,17-carbolactone, a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and less than 0.2% by weight of said compound of the contaminants

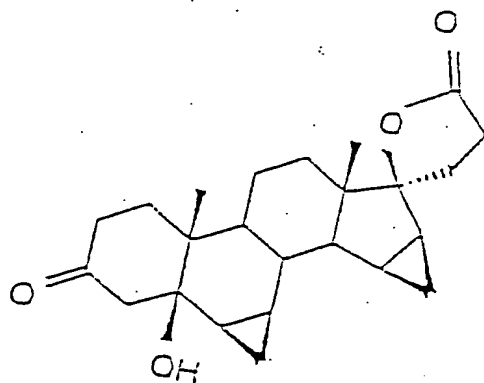


and



wherein X is an anion of an acid which is effective to open said 6 $\beta$ , 7 $\beta$ -methylene group.

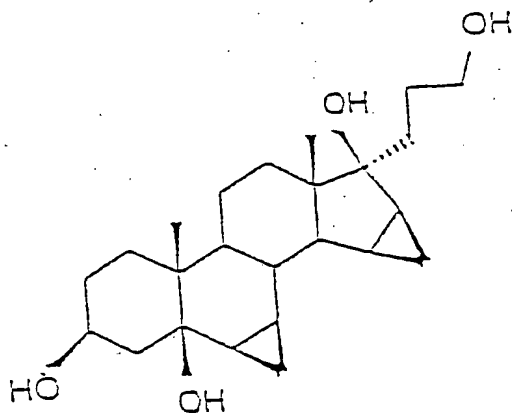
10. (Previously Presented) A composition comprising
- (a) 6 $\beta$ , 7 $\beta$ ; 15 $\beta$ , 16 $\beta$ -dimethylene-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -pregn-4-ene-21,17-carbolactone made by a process comprising dehydrating a compound of Formula III,



III

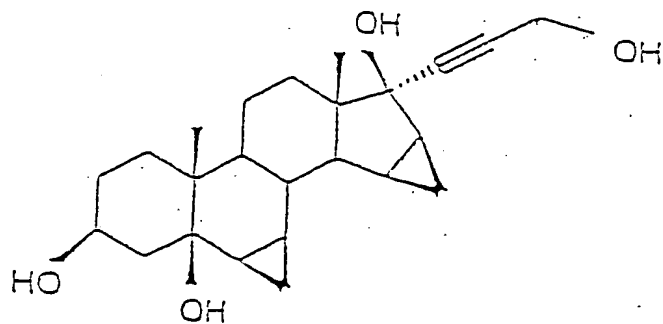
which was made by oxidizing in the presence of a ruthenium salt a compound of Formula

II,

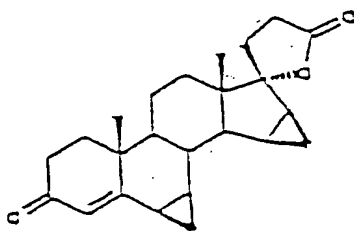


II

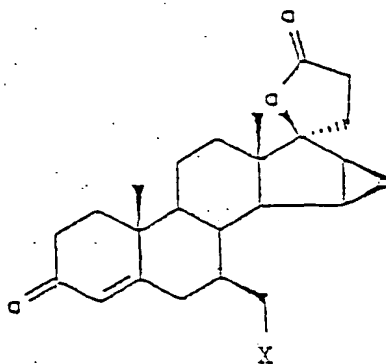
which was made by catalytically hydrogenating a compound of Formula I



- (b) a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier, and
- (c) less than 0.2% by weight of said compound (a) of the byproducts of said preparation process which are



and

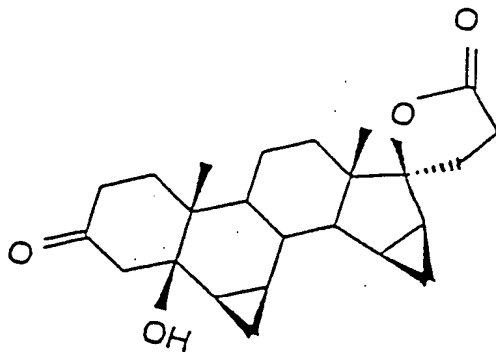


wherein X is an anion of an acid which is effective to open said 6 $\beta$ , 7 $\beta$ -methylene group.

11. (Cancelled)

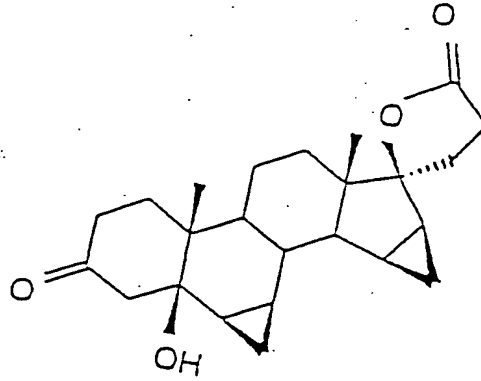
12. (Currently Amended) A ~~compound~~ composition of claim 10, wherein in said process, said dehydrating is performed after said compound of Formula III is isolated from the medium in which it is prepared.

13. (Previously Presented) 6 $\beta$ , 7 $\beta$ ; 15 $\beta$ , 16 $\beta$ -dimethylene-5 $\beta$ -hydroxy-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -androstane-21,17-carbolactone



in isolated form.

14. (Previously Presented) 6 $\beta$ , 7 $\beta$ ; 15 $\beta$ , 16 $\beta$ -dimethylene-5 $\beta$ -hydroxy-3-oxo-17 $\alpha$ -androstane-21,17-carbolactone



in isolated and purified form.